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**CONTACTS:**

**Peggi Hazlett**  
**City of San Bernardino**  
**Phone: (909) 384-5133**

**Jacob Coin**  
**San Manuel Band of Mission Indians**  
**Email: [jcoin@sanmanuel-nsn.gov](mailto:jcoin@sanmanuel-nsn.gov)**  
**Phone: 909-864-8933**

**SAN BERNARDINO AND SAN MANUEL EXTEND FIRE SERVICES AGREEMENT**  
Citizens to Benefit from New Ten Year Extension

**SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. – October 1, 2007** – Officials from the City of San Bernardino and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians announced the renewal of an existing Fire Services Agreement to ensure that citizens will continue to receive fire protection and emergency services provided by fire departments from both jurisdictions. The new automatic aid agreement will continue for ten (10) years.

“San Manuel has been in this relationship with San Bernardino since July 1999,” said tribal chairman Henry Duro. “Our respective citizens and communities are safer because of this fire safety and emergency services agreement. We look forward to ten more years of cooperation and mutual assistance.”

The agreement, which was first initiated in 1999, was amended in October 2003 when the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians established their own fire department thereby adding capacity for providing services to the region surrounding the reservation. The Tribe donated fire and HazMat (Hazardous Materials) vehicles and equipment during the initial year of the agreement as a part of their contributions to the relationship. In turn, the city fire department provided training support, vehicle and equipment maintenance, dispatching and other essential services for the San Manuel Fire Department and community.

“San Manuel continues to be a partner in the community and this is another shining example of that continued support,” stated Mayor Patrick Morris. “The ongoing commitment to the health and safety of the residents of San Bernardino is reflected in the Tribe’s contribution to Operation Phoenix Foundation, the major street improvement and beautification project on Victoria and Highland Ave., and now the renewal of the Fire Services Agreement.”

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Under this agreement, San Manuel will contribute more than \$2.2 million to the City of San Bernardino for services and the purchase of two fully-equipped ladder trucks, a full-time vehicle mechanic and dispatcher, and other items for the city fire department.

“The cooperation and support that the San Bernardino City Fire Department receives from San Manuel is outstanding,” Fire Chief Mike Conrad said. “This spirit of cooperation has been in effect for almost 10 years and is now allowing us to enhance the service to all of the citizens of San Bernardino through the acquisition of two new fire trucks. This agreement highlights the benefits that a good relationship between City and Tribal governments can provide.”

The area surrounding the San Manuel Indian reservation presents a unique opportunity for the Tribe to work with the city on fire protection and emergency response issues, according to Chief Michael Smith, San Manuel Fire Department. This is due to jurisdictional boundaries between tribal and non-tribal communities.

"This agreement represents the next phase in an ongoing partnership which has served to improve the fire services both in the City of San Bernardino as well as on the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Reservation. Like the two governments which we represent, these two fire departments have formed a close working relationship which is based upon the premise that the closest fire engine should be dispatched to an emergency, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries,” said Chief Smith. “We work together each and every day to make both San Manuel and San Bernardino safer communities and I am very pleased that this productive relationship is being secured for the next ten years by this contract....it serves all of our citizens well with the professionalism and expertise that they deserve.”

### **About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians**

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment.

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